

# SANDY SPRINGS

## G E O R G I A

Issue 2

Spring 2006

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### Festival Fun for All



This year's Sandy Springs Festival will be held September 16-17, 2006. The event is a yearly fundraiser benefiting Heritage Sandy Springs, a non-profit organization serving Sandy Springs and other nearby communities. Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the two-day event features live entertainment, children's rides, heritage education, artists' market, collector car show, food court and more. The event kicks off with a 10K road race, which is a Peachtree Road Race qualifier. The Sandy Springs Festival supports the mission and activities of Heritage Sandy Springs by fostering a community-wide tradition. For more information, visit the Festival Web site [www.sandyspringsfestival.com](http://www.sandyspringsfestival.com), contact the Festival staff at 404-851-1328 or email at [info@sandyspringsfestival.com](mailto:info@sandyspringsfestival.com).

### Greetings!

Your city government has now been in business for six months, and we are making good progress. Best of all—we are launching our own City of Sandy Springs police force July 1<sup>st</sup>.

This move will double the number of officers on the streets and improve our safety. They have been selected and comprise an outstanding and experienced group. Of the 85 men and women, more than half of them come to us from other jurisdictions in metro Atlanta, including Fulton County. The force includes graduates of the FBI National Academy and graduates and current enrollees of the Georgia Police Command College.

We have also come to an agreement regarding Fire and 911 services with Fulton County. For the rest of this year, Fulton County will continue to contract with Sandy Springs to provide these services. By the end of 2006, Sandy Springs will operate its own fire department. The current Fulton County fire stations will become Sandy Springs property.

Progress on our streets is apparent as you drive through the community. The white chalk marks around a pot hole announce that the repair crew will be there shortly. More and more streets have had their pot holes repaired.

With summer here, the Recreation and Parks Department offers many opportunities for adults and young folks. Also, take an opportunity to savor the beauty of Sandy Springs. There are trails aplenty at the Big Trees and along the Chattahoochee River. Check it all out.

Regards,

Eva Galambos, Mayor  
City of Sandy Springs



Maj. Rob Connolly and Mayor Eva Galambos  
show off one of the new police cruisers.

### More Information, More Conveniently – [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org)

Dealing with Sandy Springs is more convenient than ever as the City continues to bolster its presence in cyberspace.

The City Web site ([www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org)) now contains a search engine, expanded departmental sections, an online version of the Sandy Springs newsletter, a complete calendar of meetings and several electronic forms for convenient submission of information. Also, traffic fines are now payable through a link on the site.

The enhancements are part of an effort to give citizens more opportunities to obtain information and file requests over the Internet.

"Citizens like the convenience of filling out forms online, instead of faxing or mailing them," says City Manager John McDonough. "They also like to get information online, without having to pick up the phone and call someone. We encourage that, and we are committed to a positive e-government experience each time a citizen needs something from the City."

Some of the new features include:

- A calendar featuring the dates and times of all governmental meetings and municipal court sessions;
- A search engine allowing for easy browsing of the site based on key words and phrases;
- An easy download of the Sandy Springs newsletter in a PDF format;
- Electronic forms giving vendors the capability of filing their applications from the Web site;
- The Human Resources section that furnishes applicants with an easy way to apply for jobs by uploading a resume via an electronic form. This section also features interview tips and a quick rundown of benefits;
- An expansive photo gallery that gives citizens a peek at many local events, beginning with the City's formation and
- An expanded Recreation and Parks section listing activities and extensive information.

"This is something we're going to continue to build—it's a work in progress," said McDonough. "Everyone can expect to see it constantly changing."

# "Form"-ally Yours

The Department of Community Development is responsible for working with the citizens of Sandy Springs and its development community, the Planning Commission, Boards and the elected officials while managing current and long-range planning, permitting, inspections, code enforcement and other activities in support of the City's vision, mission and goals.

To accomplish these tasks and achieve its goals, the staff has uploaded numerous forms and checklists to the City's Web site. This allows for easy access and expeditious processing. Below is a complete listing of what is available on the Web:

## Residential Building Permit

Building Permit Application  
Residential Building Permit Checklist  
Single-Family Residential Minimum  
Submit Requirements  
Single-Family Site Plan Checklist  
Residential Code Compliance Notes  
ARC/MRPA Checklist  
Electrical Permit Application  
Mechanical Permit Application  
Plumbing Permit Application  
Soil Erosion/Tree Protection Agreement  
Request for Temporary Electrical Service  
Requirements for Authorization of  
Temporary Power

## Certificate of Occupancy

Residential CO Application  
Commercial CO Application  
Contractor Affidavit  
Homeowner Affidavit

## Demolition Permit

Demolition Permit Application

## Demolition Permit Checklist

ARC/MRPA Checklist  
Soil Erosion/Tree Protection Agreement

## Fence Permit

Fence Permit Application  
Fence Permit Checklist  
ARC/MRPA Checklist  
Soil Erosion/Tree Protection Agreement

## Land Disturbance Permit

Land Disturbance Permit Application  
LPD Minimum Submittal Requirements  
ARC/MRPA Checklist  
As-Built Checklist  
Drainage Review Checklist  
Erosion Control Checklist  
GaSWCC Erosion Checklist  
Hydrology Review Checklist  
Detention (Commercial)-Indemnification  
and Maintenance Agreement  
Detention (Residential)-Indemnification  
and Maintenance Agreement



## Plat Checklists

Final Plat Checklist  
Minor Subdivision Plat Checklist  
ARC/MRPA Checklist  
Flood Indemnification for Plats  
Flood Indemnification  
Flood Plain Checklist

## Pool Permit

Pool Permit Application  
Pool Installation Plan Checklist  
ARC/MRPA Checklist  
Soil Erosion/Tree Protection Agreement

## Wall Permits

Retaining Wall Permit Application  
Retaining Wall Checklist  
ARC/MRPA Checklist  
Retaining Walls Over Six Feet -  
Engineer Indemnification  
Retaining Walls Between Four and  
Six Feet - Owner's Indemnification  
Soil Erosion/Tree Protection Agreement

## Citizen Response Center



Citizen Response Center Staff

## New System Equals Better Customer Service

The Citizen Response Center has been answering calls since December 1, 2005. Now, we think service is better than ever, due to a new phone system. The Center transitioned to a new telephone system on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

The transition was seamless,

and there were no interruptions to service or call center operations. Staff has seen a sharp decrease in the number of dropped calls, and the voice quality on calls is much improved. The new system allows citizens to reach the Citizen Response Center quickly and consistently, and it allows clear communication between citizens and responders. Future plans include the implementation of an additional module to the telephone system that will allow enhanced call routing and recorded calls for quality assurance. As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, more than 27,700 calls have been answered.

The Building and Development area of Community Development is the largest call category with requests for service. The Center

has received more than 2,700 calls in this category, most of them concerning inspections requests, which can be scheduled online. The status of a completed inspection can also be reviewed online. The results of the inspections are posted on the Web site on the next business day following the inspection. Public Works is the next-largest call category with slightly more than 2,200 calls to date. There has been a sharp increase in calls for Municipal Court. Despite only being active for part of this year, the Municipal Court is the third-largest request type with 2,000 calls to date.

The Customer Response Center staff is dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the citizens of Sandy Springs. The team consists of the following personnel:

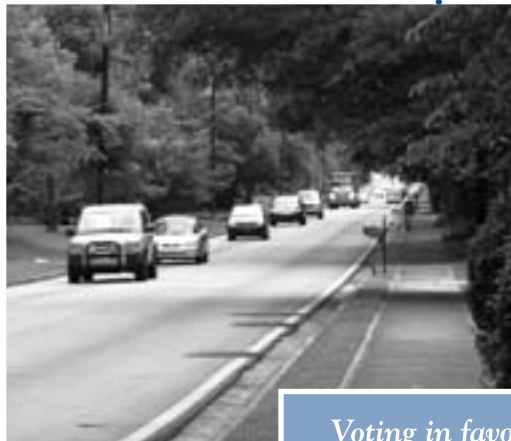
Vincent Dinkins – supervisor  
Mavis Moore – Customer Response Center lead  
Erika Hosley – agent  
Sonia Grant – agent  
Rommata Wortham – agent  
Jocelyn Olivo – agent

## The Greening of Abernathy Road

The City of Sandy Springs is in the process of evaluating consultants and will hire one to develop construction plans for the highly-anticipated Abernathy Road Linear Greenspace Park. The City opened Letters of Interest and qualifications on April 13, 2006. Technical questionnaires were then sent to the interested consultants, and these were due to the City by May 11, 2006. They were evaluated and ranked based on the responses provided in the technical questionnaire. A short list of recommendations will be prepared for the City Council to review. A scope and fee will be finalized with the short listed consultants and then one consultant will ultimately be awarded by the City Council.

The limits of the project are on the north and south side of Abernathy Road from approximately Brandon Mill Road to behind the shopping centers just west of Roswell Road.

"In addition to developing the plans, the awarded engineer will be responsible for presenting several concept alternatives to the public for their review and comment," said Jon Drysdale, PE, the City's transportation planning manager. "After this public meeting, the received comments will be compiled and thoroughly reviewed by the City staff along with the awarded engineer, and based upon the public input, a concept alternate for the park will be selected."

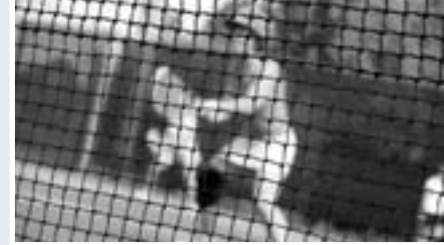


## Recreation & Parks

Summer is a perfect time to take advantage of the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department's programs and facilities.

In June, men and women of all athletic levels will gather on the Hammond gymnasium courts for the start of the 10-week basketball league summer season. Kids will start a karate camp that will increase their fitness aptitude and their self-confidence. Summer gymnastics sessions will offer a chance for children to build poise and coordination. The North Fulton Tennis Center, for the 16<sup>th</sup> year, will launch its 2006 Junior Tennis Camp to help kids discover tennis and young players improve their game.

Sandy Springs' parks are ideal places for family activities as well as to relax and socialize. To learn more about these offerings, please visit [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org), click on City Departments, then Recreation and Parks, or call the department staff at 404-252-6310.



*Voting in favor of these exemptions keeps the Fulton County homestead exemption laws in effect for all Sandy Springs homeowners. Voting against the exemptions will cancel all homestead exemptions currently in place.*

## Homestead Exemptions on July 18<sup>th</sup> Ballot

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, citizens of Sandy Springs will be presented with a special referendum on homestead exemptions. There will be six questions on the ballot.

These questions include:

A homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted base year assessed value of such homestead.

A homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 65 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations.

A homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead for senior citizens whose household income does not exceed \$39,000.00.

A homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$8,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 65 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations.

A homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$15,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city.

A homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for the full value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 70 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations.

Voting in favor of these exemptions keeps the Fulton County homestead exemption laws in effect for all Sandy Springs homeowners. Voting against the exemptions will cancel all homestead exemptions currently in place.



# Here to Serve



With just days before the 85 newly sworn officers hit the streets of Sandy Springs, final preparations are being made to hit the ground running. The average officer has 10 years of experience. About 40 percent will come from Fulton County Police Department, while others will join the force from MARTA and other jurisdictions across Georgia. Chief Gene Wilson heads the force and will employ the COMPSTAT philosophy. This is the process of using crime analysis and timely response to areas of activity while holding officers and supervisors accountable for decreasing crime.

"Each day, we are one step closer to our goal of having a superior new police department," said John McDonough, Sandy Springs city manager. "One of our foremost concerns is

ensuring the safety and security of our citizens and visitors to our City. We feel we have hired the best people. The officers know the area and are ready to hit the ground running."

Among the new police department staff will be six detectives, specializing in the areas of crimes against children, burglary, homicide and fatal accident investigation. In the preceding months officers were fitted for uniforms, body armor and hats; patrol cars have been ordered and outfitted with computer systems, radios and video systems; and officers were trained in firearms, record management, policies and procedures, security and integrity, court and judicial procedure, first aid and CPR and COMPSTAT.

## By the numbers . . .

- Three officers hold associate degrees
- 35 officers hold bachelor's degrees
- Six officers hold master's degrees
- One officer holds a doctorate degree

## Officers hail from . . .

Fulton Co PD – 34  
DeKalb Co PD – 8  
Atlanta PD – 5  
MARTA PD – 6  
Kennesaw PD – 4  
Cobb Co PD – 3  
Smyrna PD – 3

Acworth PD – 3  
GA State University PD – 2  
GEMA – 1  
Gwinnett Co PD – 1  
Cherokee Co Sheriff's – 1  
Whitfield Co Sheriff's – 1  
Hall Co Sheriff's – 1

Lawrenceville PD – 1  
Cobb Co Sheriff's – 1  
Roswell PD – 1  
Elberton PD – 1  
Walton Co Sheriff's – 1

## We Encourage Competition

In the newly formed City of Sandy Springs, we encourage competition, whether on the ball field or within our city services. That's why a Solid Waste Ordinance was passed by the Sandy Springs Mayor and City Council in March. This ordinance promotes an open and competitive marketplace for solid waste (garbage) services.

"What this really means is citizens are free to choose the hauler who can provide the best services for the most economical price," said City Manager John McDonough. "We want to encourage this

competitive spirit among the haulers so it benefits our constituents." The haulers have been asked to comply with regulations set forth by the City's ordinance. A list of licensed and approved haulers is available on the City's Web site at [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org) or by calling 770-730-5606.

Included within the Solid Waste Ordinance is the creation of an infrastructure maintenance fee of 5 percent per month per customer, which allows the City to administer the following services: maintaining roads, having a qualified customer service representative to verify performance, continuing with the City's litter remediation program and providing top-notch customer service.



## Help Fund Your City: Renew your tags

Every time you renew your license plate, the City of Sandy Springs benefits. From January 1, 2006, through May 15, 2006, the City has collected more than \$361,000 in revenue from this source. Fulton County collects the fees on the City's behalf and sends it to us on a monthly basis. The split is 50-50. The County assigns code #55 to Sandy Springs residents—so make sure your statement reflects this when you receive it in the mail at the time of renewal. This money goes into the general fund as a miscellaneous revenue source and is not earmarked for any specific project.

